

Early 1850's Deaf Students Awed State Legislators



The exhibitions by Deaf students were given at the old State House, built in 1835 and razed and replaced in 1878. (Photograph by Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society Library, Negative No. 49888F)

In the early 1850s the dusty streets of young Indianapolis were filled with horse drawn buggies and carts coming to or going through the city and citizens on foot working to avoid these horses, busy with their errands. Indianapolis had become the state capital 30 years prior and Indiana was still considered a pioneer state. The city was situated on the east-west National Road. Children and adults of the city with free time would sit on the road and watch the many immigrants passing through the city as entertainment. A mile and half east of the city on a campus of 120 acres, a new building stood just on the north edge of the National Road. The building was the Indiana Institution of the Deaf (now the Indiana School for the Deaf located on 42nd Street). During this quiet time in the early life of Indianapolis, there is one interesting fact about the School for the Deaf. Students who attended there were getting a lot of attention from some prominent people!

The school for the Deaf had been founded only eight years earlier and had only been in their new school building (photo below) since 1850. They were very busy with visits from legislators, educators, businessmen, and other prominent citizens. The visiting days were limited from Monday through Friday between 1 and 3 o'clock and 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday. During these hours, a guide would be arranged to lead them through the school classrooms and other parts of the building. Advertisements ran in the newspapers for seven months out of the year! The school was high entertainment for the public.

In addition to these frequent visitors, an annual exhibition was conducted by the Deaf students at the invitation of the Indiana legislature. The exhibition was held at the Hall of the House of Representatives, and the Deaf students performed for members of the Legislature and their guests.

The audiences at the exhibitions were in the words of one state legislator, "absolutely amazed at the extraordinary progress which has been made by the students of this noble institution." The students demonstrated their knowledge in various classical subjects and some gave a demonstration of their written English on large slates. Some students demonstrated stories in gestures and pantomimes. The audience felt highly satisfied with the students' learning process at the institution. The pantomimes were admirably performed.

Until such exhibitions, many people of that time believed Deaf children could not be educated. The audiences were spellbound that sign language could be a successful and powerful tool in educating students. One reporter wrote in the *Indiana State Sentinel*, "But we feel confident in saying, that on no occasion has our whole population been more delighted than in witnessing this exhibition, furnishing as it did a cheering confirmation of the truth, that the "Deaf and Dumb" can be educated." (*The Indiana State Sentinel*, 1851-52)



The new building of the Indiana Institution for the Deaf was often visited by prominent citizens of Indiana. (Photograph from the ISD Annual Reports)

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program, Indiana First Steps, and Outreach Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Present.....

FAMILY-CENTERED PROGRAMMING FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

SKI-HI TRAINING

**January 17, 18, 19 and February 10, 11, 12, 2005
Indiana School for the Deaf**

SKI-HI is a comprehensive family-centered, early home intervention model for families of infants and toddlers who are deaf and hard of hearing, with complete resources for direct services in the home as well as child identification, program management, and supportive service components.

The goal of the SKI-HI training is to prepare professionals to effectively deliver SKI-HI Early Home Programming including the following:

- An understanding of the rationale for early home intervention and of the whole array of services which make up a complete and effective early home intervention program
- An overview of the SKI-HI resource manual, including the principles, procedures, content, program assessment, and reporting
- An introduction on working in partnership with parents and other family members in the home setting using SKI-HI resources and conveying information, enhancing family skills, assessing child progress, and providing support as needed.

Participants will receive the training at no cost (a SKI-HI resource manual-2-volume set will be included). Space is limited to 25 participants. After training is complete, you will be prepared to provide objective information and services to young deaf and hard of hearing children for all communication opportunities. Support will continue to be provided through the Parent Infant Program.

CRITERIA for ACCEPTANCE

- You must be able to attend all six days of the training
- You must have experience working with children with hearing loss
- You must be committed to becoming a paid Parent Advisor (work availability is not guaranteed)
- You must be or able to be credentialed by First Steps

(See the First Steps web site: www.eikids.com)

Funded in part by the Indiana State Department of Health through a grant from the Health Resources & Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Calendar of Events **December**

Meetings:

No meetings in December

Workshops:

December 1 - 15, 2004

American Sign Language - Module 3

Instructors: Longfellow and Marchuk

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

DHHS CEUs: .6 - Category 1

Purdue University North Central -
Valparaiso Academic Center
600 Vale Park Rd. South
Valparaiso, IN

Contact: Phyllis Dranger at (219)

548-2468 ext. 5101or

pdranger@pnc.edu

Free Technical Assistance Available

The Indiana Deafblind Services Project's staff and consultants work with children and youth, ages birth through 21, who are deafblind, along with their families and service providers. The goal of the project is to improve the quality of educational services available to Indiana's infants, toddlers, children and youth with dual sensory impairments. In order to achieve this goal, the project provides free technical assistance, training and support services. To request assistance, please contact the project at (800) 622-3035.

(Deafblind Focus, Summer/Fall 2004, Volume 15, No. 2)

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SKI-HI TRAINING APPLICATION/REGISTRATION

January 17, 18, 19, 2005 and February 10, 11, 12, 2005

Indiana School for the Deaf

(Times and exact location to be announced)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Current Job: _____

Background/Experience with Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

Why are you interesting in this training?

You will receive confirmation after your application is accepted. Limited accommodations are available upon request. Thank you.

Please RSVP by December 10.

Mail or fax registration to:

Indiana School for the Deaf

1200 E. 42nd Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46205

Attention: Joyce Conner, Outreach Department

Fax: 317-920-6350

For more information, please contact the Parent Infant Program at
LDille@isfd.state.in.us or 317-924-8415

How to Work with a Deaf Person

(Tips for Employers)

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) have advice and tips for employers wanting to hire a deaf person or to learn how to communicate effectively with a deaf employee. You can use this valuable information to show your supervisor at your work. Click on http://www.ntid.rit.edu/nce/emp_work.asp.

DHHS Gazette

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES

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W-453, P.O. Box 7083,
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7083

TTY or Voice: (317) 232-1143
TTY or Toll free-Voice: 1-800-962-8408
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